

HIV/AIDS in Republic of Macedonia

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MACEDONIA

Abstract

Republic of Macedonia is a small European country with total area of 25,333 km², and 2 million inhabitants, member of UN, Council of Europe and candidate for member of EU and NATO.

Macedonia, in 2007, belongs to group of countries with less than 500 people living with HIV/AIDS, and less than 0.1 % prevalence in adults.

The first HIV positive case in Macedonia was registered in 1987. The first case with AIDS was registered in 1989, and first death caused by AIDS in 1990.

During period from 1987 through 2009 registered HIV (+) were 119, 94 with AIDS and 25 only HIV (+). Until 2009 62 deaths and 57 HIV (+) were registered.

First member of the ARMY personnel was a soldier who serve in 1991. He came from Germany to serve ARMY. He was proved as a HIV (+) after control of his blood, because he was a volunteer blood-donor, and dismissed afterwards.

Since 2003, the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Macedonia has been supported by a grant by The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), implemented a program to build capacity for the coordinated national response to fight HIV/AIDS.

The goal of the program was to build a coordinated national response to prevent a major HIV/AIDS epidemic in Macedonia. Two National strategies for HIV/AIDS were implemented 2003 - 2006 and 2007 – 2011.

On the basis of Memorandum of collaboration between Ministry of Defense and Global fund in 2005, in respect of implementing HIV/AIDS programme major activities would be: Education (2 seminars 45 medical personnel/educators) and Preventive measures: education, HIV pre and post deployment of army personnel.

Current tests for HIV in use in our lab, includes: Vidas HIV duo (anti HIV 1 i anti HIV 2 At), Vidas HIV p24 (p24 Ag), Rapid card tests.